

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127695

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ORIGIN EA-10

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R 021651Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 127695

E.O. 11652: N/A

?AGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: LECHOCO CASE

REF: STATE 120006

1. FIRST DAY OF LECHOCO TRIAL NOW SET FOR JUNE 16 (JURY SELECTION). JUDGE CORCORAN HAS RULED IN FAVOR OF GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR BIFURCATED TRIAL . . . I.E., SEPARATED PHASES OF THE TRIAL TO ESTABLISH FIRST CRIMINAL GUILT AND THEN MENTAL CAPACITY (BEFORE THE SAME JURY). LECHOCO LAWYER, JACOB STEIN IS EXPECTED TO ENTER FOR LECHOCO A PLEA OF NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF TEMPORARY INSANITY. GOVERNMENT WILL PUT ON FULL CASE TO ESTABLISH LECHOCO GUILT AND STEIN MOSTLY LIKELY WILL NOT VIGOROUSLY CHALLENGE GOVERNMENT'S CASE.

2. AT PRELIMINARY HEARING, JUDGE RULED THAT NO QUESTIONS OF A POLITICAL NATURE WILL BE ALLOWED ON EXAMINATION OF DIPLOMATIC WITNESSES DURING THE CRIMINAL PHASE OF THE TRIAL.

3. U.S. ATTORNEY WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON TWO
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SUBJECTS: 1. WAS LECHOCO EVER A MEMBER OF THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS OR HAVE ANY CONNECTION OR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE

CONGRESS? 2. WAS LECHOCO'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 8, 1974, TO
JUDGE ANTONIO QUIRINO, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF
PHILIPPINE RED CROSS ASKING HELP IN HIS SON'S CASE EVER
RECEIVED; AND IF SO, WAS IT EVER ANSWERED? (CARBON COPY
OF LETTER WAS FOUND IN LECHOCO'S BRIEFCASE.) INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: greeneet
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